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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED
OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT
VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued after the joint meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Bureaux of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference and the Nineteenth Ministerial Conference and of the States chairing the standing committees of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which was held at Cairo on 21 February 1991.

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under items 33, 35 and 46 of the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, and as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amre MOUSSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

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ANNEX

The closing statement issued after the joint meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Bureaux of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference and the Nineteenth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers and of the member States chairing the standing committees of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which was held at Cairo, in the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6 Sha'ban 1411 A.H., corresponding to 21 February 1991

1. The joint meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Bureaux of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference and the Nineteenth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers and of the member States chairing the standing committees of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was held at Cairo, in the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6 Sha'ban, corresponding to 21 February 1991, to discuss the situation in the Gulf region and the role of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in settling the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute arising from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

2. The meeting was attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the heads of the delegations of the following member States:

Egypt, Gabon, Kuwait, Maldives, Pakistan, Palestine, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Turkey. This meeting was not attended by the Kingdom of Morocco.

3. The meeting took note of the contents of the report submitted by H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, concerning the follow-up and implementation of the resolutions contained in the special declaration concerning the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, which was issued by the Nineteenth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo in the Arab Republic of Egypt from 9 to 14 Muharram 1411 A.H., corresponding to 31 July-5 August 1990.

4. After an extensive study of the present situation prevailing in the Gulf region, particularly in the light of the events that are currently taking place, the meeting decided that the invasion, occupation and annexation of the State of Kuwait by the Republic of Iraq had thrust the region, the Islamic nation and the world as a whole into a serious crisis with immeasurable consequences.

5. The meeting noted, with great bitterness, that the crisis resulting from the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces had led to a large-scale armed conflict with devastating and momentous consequences for mankind and the human environment. Moreover, the exile and cruel sufferings that had been imposed on the Kuwaiti people, as well as the mass emigration of hundreds of thousands of workers from Iraq and Kuwait, the loss of human life and the destruction of social and economic institutions in both Iraq and Kuwait, constituted far-reaching dimensions of the disaster that had been brought about by the presence of Iraqi armed forces in Kuwait.

6. The meeting strongly condemned the invasion and continued occupation of the State of Kuwait by the armed forces of the Republic of Iraq as an act incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Islamic values and the rules of international law. It emphasized the content of the declaration concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, which was adopted by the Nineteenth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, as well as the final declaration issued after the annual coordinating meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which was held at the United Nations in New York on 12 Rabi I 1411 A.H., corresponding to 1 October 1990, and the declaration issued after the joint meeting of senior representatives of the member States of the Bureaux of the Fifth Islamic Summit and the Nineteenth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, which was held at Jedda on 22 Jumada II 1411 A.H., corresponding to 8 January 1991.

7. The meeting commended the numerous endeavours that had been made by the international community, jointly and severally, to contain the crisis since its outbreak and to help to find a peaceful solution thereto. It expressed its deep regret that Iraq had failed to respond to the appeals and entreaties which had been made to it by the Islamic nation and the world as a whole, and also that Iraq had chosen to defy them through its stubborn refusal to comply with Islamic and international law by withdrawing its forces from the State of Kuwait so that the latter country's legitimate Government could be restored.

8. With regard to the declaration issued by the Iraqi Government on 29 Rajab 1411 A.H., corresponding to 15 February 1991, the meeting once again stressed the fact that the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory, the restoration of the legitimate Government, headed by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and current President of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, and a full commitment on the part of Iraq to respect the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as the principle of good-neighbourliness, constituted a fundamental and imperative precondition for a political settlement of the crisis.

9. The meeting reaffirmed all the resolutions of the Islamic Summits and the Conferences of Islamic Foreign Ministers, concerning Palestine, and also re-emphasized the following facts:

Their States, which had made tremendous sacrifices and had provided ongoing moral, political and diplomatic support, in spite of all the challenges and obstacles, affirmed their continuing support for the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people living under occupation.

The member States affirmed their Islamic and historic commitment to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the latter's inalienable right to exercise self-determination and to establish its State on its national soil.

Their commitment to the quest for a peaceful, just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine outweighed any other consideration within the context of an international peace conference.

10. The meeting deplored Iraq's stubborn refusal to abide by Islamic and international law and denounced Iraq's attempts to link a solution to the crisis resulting from the occupation of Kuwait to other questions. The meeting stressed that the question of Palestine was a national responsibility of all Arabs and Muslims. Consequently, it deplored the Iraqi regime's attempts to exploit the question of Palestine in order to justify its invasion of Kuwait and its displacement of the latter's people, as well as hundreds of thousands of workers in that country, including Palestinians.

In the light of Iraqi practices, the meeting affirmed that regime's ineligibility to undertake any action to solve the region's problems and emphasized the spurious and invalid nature of its allegations concerning the role that it was playing as the defender of Arab and Islamic causes.

11. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the sacrifices that had been made by the countries and peoples of the region in order to counter the aggression and withstand its effects. In this connection, the meeting also stressed the solidarity of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with the Government and people of the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other States and peoples of the region in the face of the cruel and unjust ordeal with which they had been afflicted. The meeting affirmed the member States' commitment to the liberation of Kuwait, the restoration of its legitimate Government and support for the endeavours of the Gulf States to maintain and defend the security and stability of the region.

12. The meeting emphasized that stability in the Gulf region necessitated respect for the inviolable and universally recognized borders of all the States of the region, as they were before the beginning of the crisis.

13. The meeting took note of the apprehensions expressed by the international community and stressed the need to prohibit the use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The meeting also emphasized the need for full respect for the rules of Islamic law, the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the other principles of international humanitarian law.

14. The meeting called upon the international community as a whole to continue contributing to the achievement of these objectives in a manner consistent with the requirements of Islamic and international law.

15. In addition to the settlement of the present crisis in the Gulf, the meeting called upon the member States to begin the process of giving serious thought, within the context of joint Islamic action, to ways and means to promote security and cooperation in the Islamic world. This process must include the political, economic, social, cultural and other aspects and endeavours must be made to establish peace and security on a firm footing throughout the Islamic world. The objectives of cooperation and solidarity, which had been clearly defined in the historic Makkah Declaration, must also be put into practice in a tangible manner. In this connection, the meeting welcomed the endeavours that had been made by the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other Islamic States.

16. The meeting declared that it shared the real distress felt by millions of Muslims throughout the world at the cruel ordeal that had been imposed on the peoples of the Gulf region, which contained their holiest places, due to Iraq's unjustifiable refusal to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory and respect the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the other States of the region. The meeting expressed its hope that the day would come when Iraq would return to the ranks of the Islamic nation and act in concord with the peoples of the Gulf region and all other Islamic peoples in order to achieve the legitimate aspirations of the Muslims in regard to justice, freedom, peace and progress.

17. The meeting expressed its deep gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this meeting and for the hospitable manner in which President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, had received the heads of delegations as a token of his desire to promote the spirit of Islamic solidarity at this crucial stage in the history of the Islamic world.